

If Mr. Denktash does indeed have the interests of the people of northern Cyprus at heart, he should step aside and allow the Turkish Cypriot people to choose their own future. There is too much at stake to allow another opportunity to expire.

THE TROUBLED MEDIA ENVIRONMENT IN UKRAINE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, later this week individuals around the world will mark World Press Freedom Day. The functioning of free and independent media is tied closely to the exercise of many other fundamental freedoms as well as to the future of any democratic society. The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which I co-chair, is responsible for monitoring press freedom in the 55 participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE. Recently, I reported to the Senate on the deplorable conditions for independent media in the Republic of Belarus. Today, I will address the situation of journalists and media outlets in Ukraine.

Several discouraging reports have come out recently concerning the media environment in Ukraine. These reports merit attention, especially within the context of critical presidential elections scheduled to take place in Ukraine next year. The State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices in Ukraine for 2002 summarizes media freedoms as follows: "Authorities interfered with the news media by intimidating journalists, issuing written and oral instructions about events to cover and not to cover, and pressuring them into applying self-censorship. Nevertheless a wide range of opinion was available in newspapers, periodicals, and Internet news sources."

Current negative trends and restrictive practices with respect to media freedom in Ukraine are sources of concern, especially given that country's leadership claims concerning integration into the Euro-Atlantic community. Lack of compliance with international human rights standards, including OSCE commitments, on freedom of expression undermines that process. Moreover, an independent media free from governmental pressure is an essential factor in ensuring a level playing field in the upcoming 2004 presidential elections in Ukraine.

In her April 18, 2003 annual report to the Ukrainian parliament, Ombudsman Nina Karpachova asserted that journalism remains among the most dangerous professions in Ukraine, with 36 media employees having been killed over the past ten years, while beatings, intimidation of media employees, freezing of bank accounts of media outlets, and confiscation of entire print runs of newspapers and other publications have become commonplace in Ukraine.

The murder of prominent journalist Heorhiy Gongadze—who disappeared in

September 2000—remains unsolved. Ukrainian President Kuchma and a number of high-ranking officials have been implicated in his disappearance and the circumstances leading to his murder. The Ukrainian authorities' handling, or more accurately mis-handling of this case, has been characterized by obfuscation and stonewalling. Not surprisingly, lack of transparency illustrated by the Gongadze case has fueled the debilitating problem of widespread corruption reaching the highest levels of the Government of Ukraine.

Audio recordings exist that contain conversations between Kuchma and other senior government officials discussing the desirability of Gongadze's elimination. Some of these have been passed to the U.S. Department of Justice as part of a larger set of recordings of Kuchma's conversations implicating him and his cronies in numerous scandals. Together with Commission Co-Chairman Rep. CHRIS SMITH, I recently wrote to the Department of Justice requesting technical assistance to determine whether the recordings in which the Gongadze matter is discussed are genuine. A credible and transparent investigation of this case by Ukrainian authorities is long overdue and the perpetrators—no matter who they may be—need to be brought to justice.

The case of Ihor Alexandrov, a director of a regional television station, who was beaten in July 2001 and subsequently died also remains unsolved. Serious questions remain about the way in which that case was handled by the authorities.

A Human Rights Watch report, *Negotiating the News: Informal State Censorship of Ukrainian Television*, issued in March, details the use of explicit directives or *temnyky*, lists of topics, which have been sent to editors from Kuchma's Presidential Administration on what subjects to cover and in what manner. The report correctly notes that these *temnyky* have eroded freedom of expression in Ukraine, as "editors and journalists feel obligated to comply with *temnyky* instructions due to economic and political pressures and fear repercussions for non-cooperation." To their credit, the independent media are struggling to counter attempts by the central authorities to control their reporting and coverage of issues and events.

Another troubling feature of the media environment has been the control exerted by various oligarchs with close links to the government who own major media outlets. There is growing evidence that backers of the current Prime Minister and other political figures have been buying out previously independent news sources, including websites, and either firing reporters or telling them to cease criticism of the government of find new jobs.

Last December, Ukraine's parliament held hearings on "Society, Mass Media, Authority: Freedom of Speech and Censorship in Ukraine." Journalists' testi-

mony confirmed the existence of censorship, including *temnyky*, as well as various instruments of harassment and intimidation. Tax inspections, various legal actions or license withdrawals have all been used as mechanisms by the authorities to pressure media outlets that have not towed the line or have supported opposition parties.

As a result of these hearings, the parliament, on April 3rd, voted 252 to one to approve a law defining and banning state censorship in the Ukrainian media. This is a welcome step. However, given the power of the presidential administration, the law's implementation remains an open question at best, particularly in the lead up to the 2004 elections in Ukraine.

I urge our Ukrainian parliamentary colleagues to continue to actively press their government to comply with Ukraine's commitments to fundamental freedoms freely agreed to as a signatory to the Helsinki Final Act. I also urge the Ukrainian authorities, including the constitutional "guarantor", to end their campaign to stifle independent reporting and viewpoints in the media. Good news from Ukraine will come not from the spin doctors of the presidential administration, but when independent media and journalists can pursue their responsibilities free of harassment, intimidation, and fear.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I rise to talk about Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child Abuse Prevention Month was established 20 years ago by Presidential proclamation and since then, this month has been devoted to raising awareness about this tragic problem.

This year holds particular sadness for those of us from New Jersey. This past January, 7-year-old Faheem Williams was found dead in a Newark, NJ, basement where he and his two brothers had been imprisoned for weeks. He had been starved and beaten. With Faheem were his twin, Raheem, and 4-year-old brother Tyrone, both of whom were found to be malnourished and dehydrated. All of this occurred under the supervision of the State agency that placed these three boys in foster care.

His death marks a tragic failure on the part of our State and country, as do the deaths of thousands of children each year. Mr. President, I was at Faheem's funeral. That day I said that it didn't matter whether his death was due to neglect or direct abuse. We cannot permit another child to go through this ever again.

Across the country last year, 879,000 children were victims of child abuse and neglect, of whom approximately 1,200 died from maltreatment. According to the national organization, Prevent Child Abuse America, three children die every day from abuse or neglect at the hands of those who are supposed to care for them. I don't need

to say that one is too many. Most disturbingly, confirmed reports of child abuse and neglect rose 3 percent in the last year nationwide. This is the second straight year child abuse has increased.

There is no doubt that child abuse and neglect continues to be a significant problem in the United States. Our children are our future, but their health and safety in our society continues to decline. Every one of us has a responsibility to work for the welfare of the Nation's children.

The Department of Health and Human Services runs a National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information, providing research and resources for prevention to individuals and communities. Many nonprofit organizations, State agencies, individual social workers, counselors, teachers, and clergy work tirelessly to determine when children are in danger. We need to support the individuals and groups who advocate for abused children, and the foster families who care for them.

Faheem Williams paid a terrible price for his little life and we must honor his memory and the memories of other victims of abuse by educating the country about the risks and signs of abuse and providing the resources available to stop it.

HONORING JOHN HARDT

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I take this opportunity today to pay tribute to a very distinguished servant of the legislative branch of the Congress. In May 2003, Dr. John Hardt will end his official service with the Congressional Research Service after 32 years as a valuable resource to Congress in the field of international economics and foreign affairs. In many ways, Dr. Hardt's retirement symbolizes the ending of an era for the Congress; he is the only remaining CRS Senior Specialist now providing Congress with research and analysis in the field of foreign affairs. He has been a great asset to the Congress and to CRS throughout his long career in public service.

Dr. Hardt received both his Ph.D. in economics and a Certificate from the Russian Institute from Columbia University. Prior to joining the Congressional Research Service, he had already had the kind of illustrious career that serves as a lifetime achievement for many others. He served his country with distinction during World War II, receiving ribbons and battle stars for both the European and Asiatic Theaters of Operations as well as the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He has been an educator—specializing in economics, Soviet studies, and Sino-Soviet studies—at the University of Washington, the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, the George Washington University, the Foreign Service Institute, and American military service schools. He has served in the American private sector, specializing in Soviet electric power and nu-

clear energy economics for the CEIR Corporation in Washington, DC, and as a director of the Strategic Studies Department at the Research Analysis Corporation in McLean, VA, where he specialized in Soviet Comparative Communist and Japanese Studies. He is a widely published author, with hundreds of research papers, journal articles, technical memoranda, and books and book chapters to his credit.

Dr. Hardt joined the Congressional Research Service as the Senior Specialist in Soviet Economics in November of 1971. It is his work for CRS—and for us, the Members of this body—that I want to honor today. For the past three decades, Dr. Hardt has served Members of Congress, their staffs, and committees with his considerable expertise in Soviet and post-Soviet and Eastern Europe economics, the economy of the People's Republic of China, East-West commercial relations, and comparative international economic analysis. He has advised, among others, both the Senate and House Commerce Committees on East-West trade; the Senate and House Banking Committees on the Export-Import Bank and other U.S. government financing programs; and the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees on U.S. trade policy. He frequently has traveled with congressional committee delegations, serving as a technical adviser on visits to the former Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, the former Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, and Sweden, and then preparing committee reports for these trips. On many occasions, Dr. Hardt has been called on to advise directly Members of Congress and congressional staff on Russian Federation debt reduction and its relationship to nonproliferation concerns, and has provided support to the Russian Leadership Program, especially those events and activities that involved Members of Congress. The extent of his national and international contacts is breathtaking and includes senior members of foreign governments and leading multinational businesses.

His most lasting legacy for Congress may well be his service as both editor and coordinator of a long series of Joint Economic Committee compendia on the economies of the PRC, Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe. The Congress can take pride in these important, well-known, and highly respected JEC studies, to which Dr. Hardt devoted so much of his talent and energies. The more than 70 volumes of this work include: *China Under the Four Modernizations, 1982*; *China's Economy Looks Toward the Year 2000, 1986*; *The Former Soviet Union in Transition, 1993*; *East-Central European Economies in Transition, 1994*; and *Russia's Uncertain Economic Future, 2001*. The series includes hundreds of analytical papers on various aspects of issues pertinent to Congress and to U.S. policy, all written by internationally recognized government, academic, and Private sector

experts, and all coordinated and edited by Dr. Hardt. This work was not only a valuable source of analysis to the Congress but also to the policymaking and academic communities at large. For many years, these volumes were the most comprehensive sources of economic data and analyses on the economies of the Soviet Union, China, and Eastern Europe.

Let me make one final point to illustrate the loss that we, as Members of Congress, will sustain with Dr. Hardt's retirement. That point concerns one of the great strengths that CRS offers to Congress, and which Dr. Hardt's tenure and contributions at CRS epitomize perfectly: institutional memory. Of the 525 Members of the 108th Congress, only 11 were Members of the 92nd Congress when Dr. Hardt first assumed his official congressional duties. Most of the countries that he has specialized in have undergone astounding transformation during his working life—some, indeed, no longer exist. The members of this deliberative body in which we serve has turned over many times. Committees have come and gone. But through it all, John Hardt has been a constant fixture, a strand of continuity in an environment of continual change—part of the collective institutional memory of CRS which is of such value to our work in Congress. We wish Dr. Hardt well in the new ventures on which he will be embarking. He will be greatly missed by us all.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CAPTAIN PENN HOLSAPPLE

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Captain Penn Holsapple's 90th birthday. Captain Holsapple served in the United States Marine Corps during the Second World War and was one of the first Marines to land on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima. Every American knows of the enormous sacrifices thousands of young Marines made on that island to defend our Nation, and Captain Holsapple himself was wounded in action twice. However, always living up to the Marine Corps motto "first to enter, last to leave," Captain Holsapple remained on Iwo Jima with his fellow Marines to the very end. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in wishing Captain Penn Holsapple a happy 90th birthday and to thank him for the service and sacrifice he gave to his country. Happy Birthday good friend.●

TRIBUTE TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS WORKING GROUP

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Chemical Weapons Working Group, CWWG, for receiving the Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission's 2003 Earth Day Award. Each year a dozen organizations in Kentucky receive this award for their outstanding commitment to the environment.